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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,768	04/27/2001	Yu Zhu	0020-4855P	2830

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

JONES, STEPHEN E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2817

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,768

Applicant(s)

ZHU ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen E. Jones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/30/03 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Garland et al.

Garland et al. (Figs. 3A-4C) teaches a high frequency multi-layer substrate (e.g. including: a via hole (304); a via hole metal pad (305); a taper and narrow section of signal line (306a) (e.g. see Col. 4, lines 4-14) connects a signal line (306) and the pad to each other to provide an impedance match everywhere along the signal path length (i.e. the matching inherently includes the signal line, via, pad and matching section); the

pad, signal line and matching section are all on the same layer. Regarding Claim 3, note that the phrase "based on an adjusted width and length" is not given any patentable weight since the structure does not appear to be adjustable in the final product form (i.e. only the final product structure is patentable in an apparatus claim)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garland et al. in view of Scharfman.

Garland teaches an impedance matched structure as described above. However, Garland does not explicitly teach that the impedance matching circuit is formed of a plurality of different width lines connected in series.

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generally
Scharfman teaches that steps, tapers, and stubs are equivalently suitable impedance matching means (e.g. see Col. 2, lines 16-21).

It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have substituted steps (i.e. different width sections of signal line) such as suggested by Scharfman in place of the taper and narrow section in the Garland device, because it would have been a mere substitution of art recognized functionally equivalent means for impedance matching the transmission length. Also, regarding claim 7, the phrase "based on adjusted widths and lengths" is not given any patentable weight (see the rejection of claim 3 above for details).

7. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garland in view of Roberts, Hayt, Jr. (Engineering Electromagnetics), and Scharfman.

Garland et al. teaches an impedance matched structure as described above. However, Garland does not explicitly teach that the impedance matching circuit is formed by an impedance matching transmission line and stubs on both sides on the impedance matching line.

Hayt, Jr. teaches that stubs are chosen to be placed at a position along the transmission line length to obtain the desired impedance characteristic.

Roberts teaches that dual stubs (i.e. stubs on opposite sides of a transmission line) permit for a high shunt capacitance and also teaches that the width and length are selected to provide desired impedance (e.g. see Col. 10, lines 50-59).

generally
Scharfman teaches that steps, tapers, and stubs are equivalently suitable impedance matching means (e.g. see Col. 2, lines 16-21).

Accordingly, it would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have substituted dual stubs on opposite sides of the transmission line at a particular distance on the transmission line (such as suggested by Roberts and Hayt) in place of the narrow impedance matching line and taper (i.e. a stepped portion) in the Garland device (i.e. the combination resulting in a continuous transmission line having a portion between the via and the stub that can be considered the impedance matching transmission line in the same manner as the present invention, e.g. Fig. 4 of present invention), especially since Scharfman teaches that stubs, steps and tapers are functionally equivalent suitable means for impedance matching, and because the use of dual stubs would have optimized the impedance matching of the structure and would have provided the advantageous benefit of increased shunt impedance (e.g. see Roberts, Col. 10, lines 50-54). Regarding Claim 5, note that the phrase "based on adjusted width and length" is not given any patentable weight (e.g. see the rejection of Claim 3 above for details).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen E. Jones whose telephone number is 703-305-0390. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Pascal can be reached on 703-308-4909. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

SEJ

Benny Lee
BENNY T. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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